

Message

From: Cascio, Wayne [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=A1BD931CA2F84EA8AC2F4C44538F3589-CASCIO, WAYNE]
Sent: 12/8/2020 4:48:15 PM
To: Ward-Caviness, Cavin [ward-caviness.cavin@epa.gov]
Subject: FW: Study outlines new quality rating model for hospitals

Cavin – Looks like CMS is experimenting with a new quality metric for readmissions, i.e. the time from discharge to readmission rather than 30days. Might be something to consider as an additional analysis. Wayne

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From: ACC CV Quality SmartBrief <accquality@smartbrief.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 08, 2020 11:41 AM
To: Cascio, Wayne <Cascio.Wayne@epa.gov>
Subject: Study outlines new quality rating model for hospitals



December 8, 2020

Transforming Cardiovascular Care and Improving Heart Health

FIRST FOCUS

Report: Health care spending may decrease in 2020

Health care spending in 2020 may decrease, when compared with 2019, for the first time in decades, according to a new report from the Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF). KFF President Drew Altman said the impact on health outcomes is not clear nor is how much of the health care spending was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic was necessary or unnecessary.

Full Story: [Medscape \(free registration\) \(12/3\)](#)



Study outlines new quality rating model for hospitals

A study published in JAMA Cardiology and Circulation suggests a new "risk-adjusted 30-day home test" model that measures many days a Medicare patient spends at home after hospital discharge rather than just 30-day readmissions. The new model changed a hospital's quality ranking compared with using regular readmission measurements.

Full Story: D Magazine (Dallas) (12/2020)



CMS starts phase-out of inpatient-only procedures list

The final 2021 Outpatient Prospective Payment System rules begin the three-year phasing out of the Medicare inpatient and inpatient procedures that Medicare must reimburse, writes Mark Spivey. Procedures removed from the IP list will face payment denials until the CMS collects enough claims data to determine the procedures are performed more frequently. The two-midnight rule still applies.

Full Story: ICD10Monitor (12/3)



Healthcare Cloud Storage Builds PHI Trust

Ongoing concerns about security, privacy, and distrust in storage and processing of PHI are being addressed by the benefits of cloud. Compliance and data privacy, driven by better health outcomes, explains how.

Poll: PPE shortage affecting most health care facilities

A national survey by the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology found that 73% of health care facilities are not following conventional standards of care due to a shortage of respirators, and 76% are allowing staff to reuse respirators without replacing them. The association surveyed infection prevention experts between Oct. 22 and Nov. 5 to determine the impact of the current spike in cases and the start of flu season, according to Medscape.

Full Story: Medscape (free registration) (12/4)



Health care workers meet with COVID-19 disbelief

Health care workers face challenges treating patients with COVID-19 and dealing with people who think the pandemic does not exist at all. And surveys show COVID-19 vaccine resistance is an issue as significant numbers of people believe the virus does not exist at all.

Full Story: Axios (12/6), The Wall Street Journal (tiered subscription model) (12/3)



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INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY TRENDS

GAO issues report on optimizing AI in health care



(Pixabay)

A report from the Government Accountability Office and the National Academy of Medicine of using artificial intelligence to augment patient care. The report identifies options available for care, including encouraging interdisciplinary collaboration and expanding access to high-quality care.

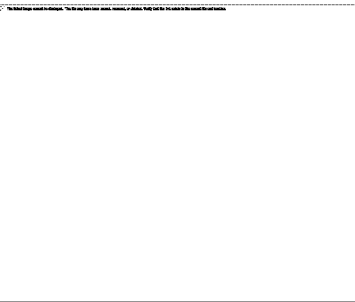
Full Story: Health IT Analytics (12/1)



Mass. insurers study socioeconomic barriers to telehealth

Health insurers in Massachusetts are participating in an 18-month study led by Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Institute to study ethnic barriers to telehealth use. Researchers will analyze Medicare, Medicaid, and commercial health plan claims data to see if insurance, race/ethnicity, and socioeconomic status affected telehealth use before and during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Full Story: mHealth Intelligence (12/3)

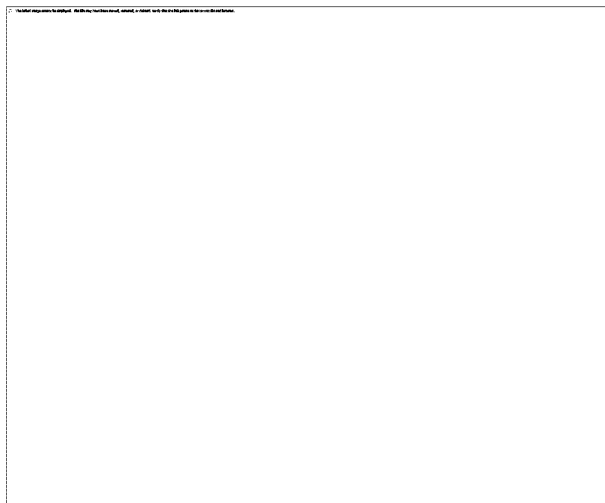


Ready to reopen your office? Workplace safety is #1

Many companies are ready to open back up and workers are eager to return to the office. However, the plan hinges on companies providing a safe work environment. This Q&A with Niraj Patel, CEO at DMI Inc., covers the steps companies need to take to re-open and how technology is helping. Workplace safety protocols are being followed to stay open. **Read now**

FEATURED CONTENT

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What will the remote workplace look like in 2021?

As the coronavirus pandemic stretches from 2020 to 2021, and the cloud, what trends should business leaders keep an eye on and implement?

Read the blog post to learn how digital transformation, cloud computing, and AI will influence the 2021 remote workforce.

PREVENTION & RESEARCH NEWS

Study supports statins for CV prevention in older adults

Older adults with the greatest adherence to statin medication regimens had a lower risk for major adverse cardiovascular events compared with those with the least adherence, researchers reported in the American Journal of Medicine. "Statin use without diabetes was associated with cardiovascular benefit in adults aged 70 years and older, without a significant increase in risk," researchers wrote.

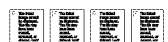
Full Story: [Healio \(free registration\)/Cardiology Today \(12/6\)](#)

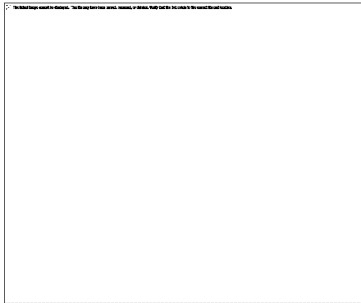


Study examines effects of obesity, overweight in PAH

Patients with pulmonary arterial hypertension who were also overweight or obese had a higher incidence of hospitalization and death, compared with those with normal weight. The findings in the Annals of the American Thoracic Society also showed that obesity or overweight had a decreased risk for transplant or death, compared with those with normal weight.

Full Story: [Healio \(free registration\) \(12/7\)](#)





The State of Human Experience in the Workplace

Things have sped up in the workplace in 2020. This is due to a range of issues such as business performance, and the kind of technological advancements that change the extent. **Read more about how to overcome these challenges.**

OTHER NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

- **Biden selects Becerra to lead HHS, Walensky to head CDC**
The New York Times (tiered subscription model) (12/6)
- **Trump order prioritizes Americans in COVID-19 vaccination**
Reuters (12/7)
- **US slashes COVID-19 vaccine allocations to states**
The Washington Post (tiered subscription model) (12/5)

ACC NEWS

Diversity; Quality in COVID-19 Era; Improved Patient Outcomes Key Themes of ACC Quality Summit Virtual

Get a recap of ACC Quality Summit Virtual in a new article in Cardiology magazine. This year's program centered on diversity and inclusion in the health care environment; providing leadership tactics to improve patient outcomes and cost; enhance patient outcomes; and evaluating quality care in the COVID-19 era. Also, in Cardiology, congratulations to the 100th HeartCARE Center designation from ACC Accreditation Services in the third quarter of 2020!

Prepare for 2021! Register For MedAxiom's December Coding Bootcamp

Join MedAxiom for its December Coding Bootcamp to prepare for 2021. Next year will introduce several coding evaluation and management updates. The focused web series, with sessions taking place daily from Dec. 14 to Dec. 18, will feature experts about the latest in coding and set yourself up for success in 2021. Be sure to register individually for each session of the series.



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I never decide if an idea is good or bad until I try it.

Rick Rubin,
record producer



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